

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/915,360

Examiner

Mark R. Milia

Applicant(s)

ISHII ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment received on 10/30/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment was received on 10/30/06 and has been entered and made of record. Currently, claims 1-9 are pending.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, see pages 6-7, filed 10/30/06, with respect to the rejection of claims 1-9, particularly claims 1, 5, and 9, have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-9 has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-9 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed limitations of (in combination with all other limitations in the claims), wherein the instruction dividing and distributing parts analyze whether or not the image drawing instructions transmitted from the host apparatus are those concerning an image object, and also, an area to be processed or a data amount of the image object is larger than a

predetermined reference value, and, when the conditions are met, the compressed image drawing instructions are divided into a plurality of compressed image drawing instructions, and the divided image drawing instructions are distributed into the respective image production processing parts for processing the same, respectively, while, when the conditions are not met, the compressed image drawing instructions are not divided, and are transferred to the image production processing parts as they are, as set forth in claims 1, 5, and 9.

The closest prior art, previously noted as Kawasaki (US 5969828), discloses an image processing device comprising: a dividing part which divides image drawing instructions into a plurality of sets of compressed image drawing instructions without decompressing them in such a manner that each set of image drawing instructions can be processed without referring to any other set of image drawing instructions, a distributing part which distributes the plurality of sets of image drawing instructions to a plurality of image production processing parts, and said plurality of image production processing parts each of which generates drawing data for image drawing processing from the plurality of sets of image drawing instructions. However, Kawasaki fails to disclose a dividing part which divides compressed image drawing instructions into a plurality of sets of image drawing instructions and wherein the instruction dividing and distributing parts analyze whether or not the image drawing instructions transmitted from the host apparatus are those concerning an image object, and also, an area to be processed or a data amount of the image object is larger than a predetermined reference value, and, when the conditions are met, the compressed image drawing

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instructions are divided into a plurality of compressed image drawing instructions, and the divided image drawing instructions are distributed into the respective image production processing parts for processing the same, respectively, while, when the conditions are not met, the compressed image drawing instructions are not divided, and are transferred to the image production processing parts as they are.

Therefore, for these reasons, claims 1-9 are rendered allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. To further show the state of the art please refer to the attached Notice of References Cited.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark R. Milia whose telephone number is (571) 272-7408. The examiner can normally be reached M-F 8:00am-4:00pm.

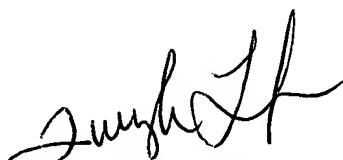
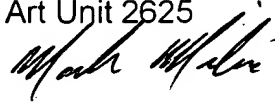
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler M. Lamb can be reached at (571) 272-7406. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MRM

Mark R. Milia
Examiner
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TWYLER LAMB
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER